

**WILLIAM WILBERFORCE'S STRUGGLE AGAINST SLAVERY  
IN *AMAZING GRACE* FILM DIRECTED BY MICHAEL APTED: A  
MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of The Study

*Amazing Grace* is the best film in 2006. This film is directed by Michael Apted. *Amazing Grace* is written by Steven Knight. It is produced by Ken Wales. It is also edited by Rick Shaine. It tells about the campaign against the slave in 18<sup>th</sup> century British, led by famous abolitionist William Wilberforce, who is a member of parliament navigated the world of 18<sup>th</sup> century backroom politics to end the slave trade in the British. The film also recounts by John Newton. Newton was born in London July 24<sup>th</sup>, 1725. Shooting took place in London during October 2005. A number of outside scenes were shot at the former Greenwich hospital, now part of the University of Greenwich and around Salisbury in Wiltshire. The stories flash back 15 years to 1782 and William recounts the events that led him to where he is now. The duration of *Amazing Grace* film is 118 minutes. The film's wider release was on February 23, 2007.

Michael Apted was born in Buckinghamshire, England February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1941. He has got some awards. He has been a winner for 15 times and 11 nominations. Festival favorite Michael Apted brings his unique cinematic finesse to *Amazing Grace*, a captivating historical drama that is tremendously appealing to both the heart and the mind.

The climax of this film is William's struggle to abolish the slavery in England, and to know how many people give support for him about the slave trade. Until he is exhausted and frustrated that he is unable to change anything in the

government, William becomes physically (the diagnosis in the film is colitis, most commonly known today as crohn disease. Having virtually given up hope, William considers leaving politics forever. Barbara Spooner convinces him to keep fighting because if he does not, no one else is capable of doing so. A few days afterward, William and Barbara marry, and she gives support for William Wilberforce. William Wilberforce continue to battle injustice for the rest of his life. He transform the hearts and minds of his countrymen on education health care and prison reform to accomplish his second great dream making a better world.

The type of work slaves depend on the time period and location of the slavery. Many slaves are use in agriculture and cultivation in general they did the same work as everyone else in the lower echelons of the society. They lived in the room and board but did not pay. Therefore a system of slavery as opposed in any society.

There are pro and contra of *Amazing Grace* film. The people like this film because the film about legislative battle from the view of William Wilberforce and other British abolitionists. In other words, the story is that of the perspective of the protagonist. The peoples dislike this film because this film is about black people as passive and incapable of participating in their emancipation. Whereas, the black peoples are able to struggle and all form an integral of humanity. This film can't to explore slavery from the black perspective.

The interesting of this film is structural elements such as characters and characterization, setting, plot, and theme. There are four reasons the writer interested in the story of *Amazing Grace* film: The first is because the film about legislative battle from the view of William Wilberforce and other British

abolitionists. He wants to persuade some society to give support for him, to campaign the slave in 18 century in the British in conference.

The second because the film about a man who stands up for what is right and makes a different in this life, He is William Wilberforce an ambitious and popular member of parliament. William's struggle to abolition and to know how many people supported him about this slave trade.

The third the film tells about the campaign against the slavery in 18 century in the British, led by famous abolitionists William Wilberforce, who as a member of parliament Over eleven million African men, women and children had been taken from Africa to be used as slaves in the West Indies and American colonies. Great Britain was the mightiest super power on earth and its empire was built on the backs of slaves.

The last is because the story of *Amazing Grace* about William Wilberforce struggle against slavery in British.

Based on the previous fact the writer wants to analyze Michael Apted *Amazing Grace* by using Marxist Approach. The writer encourages herself to give a title:

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APPROACH.

## **B. Literature Review**

*Amazing grace* is the best film in 2006. Before the researchers analyze it, she has read one research paper that is relevant with her analysis. The researcher found that film had been analyzed by student of Muhammadiyah University of Jakarta namely Rika Amalia. Her research paper entitled the analysis of the inferiority feeling that influences the personality of William Wilberforce gets the inferiority feeling in Michael Apted *Amazing Grace* using individual psychological approach. The major character, William Wilberforce is firstly when he is fail in first meeting of struggle to campaign about the slavery in the British. He is exhausted and frustrated that he was unable to change anything in the government, William becomes physically ill. He feels not responsible with his promise to abolishment about the slave trade in the British. In this research she concerns the character of William Wilberforce to be analyzed in how he copes with the life problems he faced.

Different from previous study, the present study focuses on the analysis of struggle against slavery of the film *Amazing Grace* was directed by Michael Apted. The major issue at 18<sup>th</sup> century is about the campaign against the slave in British. The slave was considered acceptable by all but a few. Of these even fewer were brave enough to speak against it. He is William Wilberforce an ambitious and popular member of parliament. William's struggle to abolition and to know how many people supported him about the slave trade. The present researcher will analyze it by emphasizing on Marxist perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of this study is “how is the struggle against slavery being done by William Wilberforce that is reflected in *Amazing Grace*, especially by Marxist approach”.

### **D. Objective of The Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on structural element.
2. To analyze the film based on the Marxist approach.

### **E. Benefits of The Study**

The benefits expected from this study are as follows

#### **1. Theoretical**

This study is purposed to improve the body of knowledge in studying literature and give contribution to literary studies.

#### **2. Practical**

To give Deepings understand in literary field as the reference to the other researchers in analyzing this film into different perspectives.

## **F. Research Method**

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *Amazing Grace* movie directed by Michael Apted.

### **2. Type of Data and Data Source**

In study there are two sources namely primary and secondary data source.

- a. The Primary Data source is every data of the *Amazing Grace* movie directed by Michael Apted.
- b. The Secondary Data source are the book about Marxist and also the other materials related to the analysis.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The data collecting technique used in this study is library research. The necessary steps are as follow:

- a. Watching and learning the *Amazing Grace* film repeatedly.
- b. Describing the story of film.
- c. Looking for and selecting the correlation of the data and theory using Marxist analysis.
- d. Making notes of information in both primary and secondary data source.
- e. Classifying the data into some categories.

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

- a. Clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.
- b. Analyzing data based on Marxist theory proposed by Karl Marx.

## **G. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist approach. The third consists of social historical background of British society at the eighteenth century includes social, economic and political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspect. The fourth chapter consists of structural analysis of the film and discussion. The fifth chapter consists of analysis based on Marxist perspective. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.